

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 /052 W

----- 003155

R 212050Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5711

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL CALGARY

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0620

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BTIO, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NEW TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REF: 10 FAM 521, 521.5

1. TRANSPORT MINISTER MARCHAND ANNOUNCED ON FEB 20 GOC
DECISION TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF CONTROVERSIAL NEW
TRONTO AIRPORT AT PICKERING. AIRPORT WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED
IN 1969 TO RELIEVE CONGESTION OF EXISTING AIRPORT AT
MALTON. IT HAS BEEN BOGGED DOWN IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND
URBAN POLICY CONFLICTS OVER PAST FOUR YEARS. FIRST
PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION WILL INVOLVE ONLY ONE RUNWAY, ONE
TERMINAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO MEET MINIMUM INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS. COST OF THIS PHASE IS ESTIMATED AT
\$110 MILLION IN 1974 PRICES; THIS AMOUNT IS IN
ADDITION TO THE \$94 MILLION ALREADY SPENT FOR
ACQUISITION OF 19,000 ACRES OF LAND. NEW FACILITY
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EXPECTED TO BE READY BY WINTER 1979-80.

2. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT AS REPORTED IN PRESS INDICATES INITIALLY NEW AIRPORT WILL BE USED PRIMARILY FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, BOTH SCHEDULED AND CHARTER. TRADITIONALLY, GOC HAS NOT CONSIDERED TRANSBORDER AIR SERVICES TO BE INTERNATIONAL. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT PRESENTLY EXPECT ANY EFFORT TO RELOCATE OPERATIONS OF US AIR CARRIERS TO PICKERING OR ANTICIPATE ANY NEED TO ESTABLISH PRECLEARANCE AT NEW AIRPORT. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO GET A DEFINITIVE READING ON THIS POINT AS RELEVANT OFFICIALS ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

3. CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORT WILL PROVIDE LIMITED EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR US FIRMS. ONE PLANNING OFFICIAL IN MOT SPECIFICALLY INDICATED SUCH ITEMS AS ESCALATORS FOR TERMINAL AND RUNWAY CENTER LINE LIGHTS AS AMONG THINGS NOT MADE IN CANADA WHICH US FIRMS SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO SUPPLY. WE SUGGEST CONGEN TORONTO MAY WISH FOLLOW UP THIS FURTHER WITH LOCAL MOT PROJECT OFFICE. BASED ON ITS KNOWLEDGE AT THE NEW MIRABEL AIRPORT, CONGEN MONTREAL MAY ALSO HAVE INSIGHTS RELEVANT TO U.S. EXPORT OPPORTUNITES FOR THE PICKERING PROJECT.
PORTER

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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